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LETTER DATED 12 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 12 November 1997 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning violations by American aircraft of Iraqi airspace during the period between 29 October and 11 November 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter, together with the attached tables of violations, distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 12 November 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 5 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you, concerning the continual violations by American aircraft of the integrity of Iraq's airspace, and also with reference to our letters dated 18 July 1997 and 12 November 1997 addressed to the President of the Security Council, and recalling our position set forth in those letters, we find it necessary and urgent to inform you that the American violations of Iraq's sovereignty and the integrity of its airspace have reached a critical level. The violations of Iraq's airspace by American warplanes have increased along with the escalation of American threats to unleash military aggression against Iraq.

The American warplanes violated Iraq's airspace in northern and southern Iraq 984 times, of which 169 violations occurred in northern Iraq and 815 in southern Iraq, between 29 October 1997 and 11 November 1997. Enclosed with this letter you will find two tables indicating the increasing gravity of these violations.

As you know, such grave acts by a permanent member of the Security Council constitute not only a violation of the sovereignty of an independent State and founding Member of the United Nations and of the Charter of the Organization, but also a violation of a principle laid down in Security Council resolution 687 (1991), which was adopted, as you and the world at large are aware, under special influence and pressure from the United States.

In the face of these continual violations, breaches and trespasses, and against a background of constant American threats and the possibility of the use of military means by the United States, Iraq will find itself forced, in the absence of any alternative, to defend its sovereignty and security.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
Baghdad, 12 November 1997

Enclosure I

[Original: Arabic]

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Department of International Organizations and Conferences

Number of American air violations of northern and southern Iraq between 29 October and 11 November 1997

northern Iraq	southern Iraq
169	815

Total: 984

Enclosure II

Number of sorties of enemy warplanes over the two no-fly zones between 29 October and 11 November 1997

Dates	Sorties over northern Iraq	Sorties over southern Iraq	Sorties of the TR-1* over southern Iraq
29/10		44	1
30/10		39	1
31/10	12	35	1
1/11	24	49	1
2/11	12	47	1
3/11	26	69	1
4/11	22	81	
5/11	18	87	1
6/11	28	60	
7/11	15	45	1
8/11		51	1
9/11		58	1
10/11	12	76	
11/11		63	1
Subtotal	169	804	11

* The TR-1 is an American reconnaissance spy plane which flies at an altitude of 20,000 metres and at a speed of 600 km/hour over southern Iraq only.